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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

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(54) Title: STEROID SPIROLACTONIZATION

(57) **Abstract:** A steroid comprising a 17-spirolactone or corresponding open lactone structure is obtained by carbonylation of a 17-alkenyl or 17-alkynyl substrate. A 17-alkenyl intermediate may be prepared by semi-hydrogenation of a 17-alkynyl group. Multiple reaction schemes are disclosed for preparation of a 3-keto-9,11-epoxy-17-spirolactone steroid such as eplerenone. Novel intermediates are also disclosed, as well as steps for forming such novel intermediates, or converting them to further intermediates or products, by semi-hydrogenation, carbonylation, 6,7-dehydrogenation, furylation or other transformations or combinations thereof.

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(54) Title: STEROID SPIROLACTONIZATION

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/08629

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		
<p>IPC(7) : C07J 1/00, 21/00 US CL : 540/41; 552/633, 637</p> <p>According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC</p>		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED		
<p>Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)</p> <p>U.S. : 540/41; 552/633, 637</p>		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)		
REGISTRY, CAPLUS, CASREACT, USPATFULL		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WUTS et al., A Novel Synthesis of Spironolactone. An Application of the Hydroformylation Reaction. J. Org. Chem., 13 October 1989, Vol. 54, No. 21, pages 5180-5182, see the entire article, especially page 5181. Scheme 1a.	1-7
X	FUKUTA et al., Synthesis of 3-silyl-2(5H)-furanone by rhodium-catalyzed cyclocarbonylation. Tetrahedron Letters, 12 February 2001, Vol. 42, No. 7, pages 1301-1304, see the entire article, especially page 1304, Scheme 6.	1-7
Y	US 5,276,023 A (MOGUILAEWSKY et al.) 04 January 1994 (04.01.1994), see col. 10, lines 5-12.	6
Y	US 5,236,913 A (BERGINK) 17 August 1993 (17.08.1993), see col. 2, lines 45-49.	6
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents:		
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance		"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date		"X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)		"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		
Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report	
04 October 2005 (04.10.2005)	28 OCT 2005	
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer <i>J. Roberto J.</i> Barbara P. Badio, Ph.D. Telephone No. 571-272-1600	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/08629

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
Please See Continuation Sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 1-7

Remark on Protest The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No. PCT/US04/08629

BOX III. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid.

Group I, claim(s) 1-7, drawn to a process for preparing a 17-spirolactone steroid compound.

Group II, claim(s) 8 and 9, drawn to steroid derivatives substituted in the 17-position by a 17-alkenyl and/or alkynyl group and a 17-oxy group.

Group III, claim(s) 10 and 11, drawn to a process for preparing a steroid derivative substituted in the 17-position by a 17-alkenyl and/or alkynyl group and a 17-oxy group.

The inventions listed as Groups I-III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: The compounds encompassed by Groups I-III contain a steroid ring system which does not define a contribution over the prior art. The substituents and definitions of variables vary extensively and, when taken as a whole result in vastly different compounds. Accordingly, unity of invention is considered to be lacking and restriction of the invention in accordance with the rules of unity of invention is considered to be proper.